

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1. - 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A cleansing method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a cleansing processing agent in a solid state which comprises:

(1) a hydrolyzed ~~polymer~~ high molecular material having an acrylonitrile unit;

(2) a unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof;

(3) hydrophilic groups introduced into said acrylonitrile unit by adding an acid or an alkali thereto; and

(4) ion groups being introduced into said acrylonitrile unit and said unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof,

wherein,

said ~~polymer~~ high molecular material comprising said acrylonitrile unit and 20 to 95 mol% of said unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene and a combination thereof, and said ~~polymer~~ high molecular material present in pieces not larger than 3.5 mesh; and

said ~~polymer~~ high molecular material comprises a molecular weight greater than about 10,000 and less than about 1,000,000;

(b) contacting said agent with a material to be cleaned without ~~requiring~~ a pre-treatment for mixing or dispersing said agent in a liquid, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; and

(c) absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound from the material to be cleaned.

43. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is effluent water or an exhaust gas that is passed through a column charged with the hydrolyzed ~~polymer~~ high molecular material.

44. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed ~~polymer~~ high molecular material is dispersed into effluent water.

45. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is a solid material.

46. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed ~~polymer~~ high molecular material said agent is sprayed onto the material to be cleaned.

47. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is soil in a landfill.

48. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is odor-emitting material.

49. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the ~~polymer~~ high molecular material comprises 5 to 80 mol % of an acrylonitrile unit.

50. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the ~~polymer~~ high molecular material is at least one selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR).

51. (Previously Presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the acid is sulfuric acid.

52. – 54. (Cancelled).